



# NEWS RELEASE

Arizona Supreme Court - Administrative Office of the Courts

## Retired Judge Joe Contreras passes away



**Phoenix, AZ.** - The judiciary is mourning the loss of Joe Contreras, a retired judge for the Arizona Court of Appeals, Division I, who died on January 16. Judge Contreras was a third-generation Arizonan, born on October 27, 1933.

The property that is home to the Arizona Supreme Court and Court of Appeals, Division I, located at 1501 W. Washington in Phoenix, also has ties to the former judge. Judge Contreras was not only actively involved in obtaining the funding needed to construct the building at its current location, but his childhood home was once located on this property.

Judge Contreras is a graduate of Arizona State University, where upon graduation he entered the U.S. Air Force and commenced flight training. Following active duty, he served for another 20 years in the Active Air Force Reserve as a Mobilization Augmentee attached to the Judge Advocate General and was awarded the Air Force Commendation Medal.

After graduation, Judge Contreras served as a law clerk to Arizona Supreme Court Chief Justice Fred Struckmeyer, Jr. In 1978, he was appointed as a judge to the Arizona Court of Appeals Division I, where he later served as Chief Judge.

Judge Joe Contreras served the legal profession in Arizona for more than 50 years.

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